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RELEASE OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION TO CONGRESS

A. Problem

1. How to control release of highly classified intelligence information to Congress.

2. How to ensure against false confirmation when the same information is released to members of Congress and their staffs at different levels of classification (e.g., when items of codeword classification are sanitized and disseminated at a lower classification).

B. Proposed Solutions

1. National Estimates:

In no case will National Intelligence Estimates be identified to members of Congress or Congressional Staffs without the specific approval of the Director of Central Intelligence. Statistics and judgments reached in National Intelligence Estimates may be cited provided no specific estimate is identified as the source, and subject to the arrangements outlined below with respect to sensitive sources or methods.

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2. Sources and Methods:

a. Intelligence briefings of members of Congress or congressional staffs which involve sensitive sources or methods, e.g. TKH, will be provided only after coordination with the Director of Central Intelligence or his representative or in accordance with guidelines which may be established by the Director of Central Intelligence. (This does not apply to AEC release of Restricted Data.)

b. In cases where departmental superiors of members of the community wish to make such sensitive releases, every effort will be made by the intelligence component concerned to assure that the DCI is consulted in advance, bearing in mind his statutory responsibility for protection.

3. False confirmation:

Whenever a member of the community briefs a member of Congress or of a congressional staff on an item of codeword classification, and such item is later sanitized and disseminated at a lower classification with a differing source description, it will be the responsibility of the original briefer to ensure that the congressional representatives concerned are advised of the true facts and warned against false confirmation.

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4. General:

It is suggested that all USIB members take a hard look at the procedures within their own agencies for determining what intelligence information is passed to Congress.

C. Channels

My Legislative Counsel, Mr. John M. Maury, will serve as my primary point of contact for the relationships envisaged above. I encourage you to get in touch with me directly if you wish, or through the legislative liason channel.

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